CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) An apparatus for on-demand chemical etch comprising:

a stencil web;

a media support system; and

an etching head mechanism

wherein said stencil web transported under said etching head mechanism by said media support system.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said media support system comprises a stencil unwind hub and a stencil rewind hub.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a printing mechanism, said printing mechanism comprising a print head, a thermal transfer ribbon and a ribbon support system; and

a spent carrier rewind;

wherein said printing mechanism is located before the etching head mechanism.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said etching head mechanism extends and sandwiches said stencil web between said etching head mechanism and a target object.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a grounding electrode on said etching head mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a conveyor, wherein said target object is on ~~a~~ the conveyor and said conveyor is adapted to be actuated upwards to push the target object against the etching head.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said stencil web is preprinted.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a part surface wiper.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a handheld unit wherein said stencil web, media support system and said etching head mechanism are adapted to be housed in said handheld unit.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a handheld unit wherein said stencil web, media support system and said etching head mechanism are adapted to be housed in said handheld unit.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a handheld unit wherein said stencil web, media support system and said etching head mechanism are adapted to be housed in said handheld unit.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a handheld unit wherein said stencil web, media support system and said etching head mechanism are adapted to be housed in said handheld unit.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a grounding electrode on said etching head mechanism.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said media support system comprises a cartridge and the stencil web is loaded in the cartridge as a stack of preprinted stencils.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the media support system further comprises a collection bin adapted to hold used stencils.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for on-demand chemical etch comprising:
a stencil web;
a media support system;
an etching head mechanism; and
a handheld unit wherein said stencil web, media support system and said etching head mechanism are adapted to be housed in said handheld unit and wherein said stencil web transported under said etching head mechanism by said media support system;
~~The apparatus of claim 9~~ wherein the etching head is spherical and comprises ~~with~~ a plurality of stencils.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the etching head is replaceable.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for on-demand chemical etch comprising the steps of:

obtaining a stencil web; said stencil web on a media support system comprising a media unwind hub and a stencil rewind hub;

unwinding said stencil web from said stencil unwind hub;

transporting said stencil web under a print head;

printing in reverse on said stencil web to create a stencil;

peeling away a carrier from said stencil;

transporting said stencil under an etching head;

sandwiching said stencil between said etching head and an object;

applying a wetting solution;

actuating an electrode;

rewinding a spent stencil on the stencil rewind hub.